

**Monroe County Locally Led Workgroup:
EQIP 2004**

(November 19, 2003)

Soil (erosion, condition & deposition)

- concerns for improper timber harvest in the North Fork Salt Creek watershed in proximity to Monroe Reservoir
- continued concerns of soil erosion associated with sinkholes
- urban development surrounding Bloomington is greater contributor to soil loss than agricultural practices
- most agricultural operations are in lower Bean Blossom Creek or Indian Creek watersheds
- higher agricultural watersheds should be given priority in ranking due to associated risks and vulnerability of the watersheds
- a majority of the crop land is managed with no-till methods for both soybeans and corn
- local ranking points assigned are 125

Water (quality & quantity)

- improper timber harvests throughout the county
- Monroe Reservoir is a concern for protection
- concern for urban contributions to impaired water quality in Monroe Reservoir watershed, especially Clear Creek
- concerns for groundwater contamination in the karsts region
- identified Bean Blossom Creek floodplain as highest risk of cropland and stream bank erosion, as well as, excess nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff
- concern for *E. coli* contamination in Bean Blossom Creek watershed
- local ranking points assigned are 125 and targeted the Bean Blossom Creek watershed due to current 303(d) listing, current agricultural operations, and increasing residential development of highly erodible forest and agricultural soils.

Air (quality & quantity)

- no confined animal operations in the county
- concerned with dust attributed to stone quarry operations
- urban and suburban areas surrounding Bloomington and Ellettsville were identified as highest rates of development resulting in significant losses of vegetative covers for carbon sequestration, temperature regulation, and dust control
- local ranking points assigned are 25

Plants (suitability, condition & management)

- want to emphasize BMPs for timber harvests
- want continued sustainable timber production throughout the county
- concerned for rate of woodland losses to development
- greatest pressure of woodland development is south and east of Bloomington
- northeastern corner of the county is occupied by Morgan-Monroe State Forest
- most forest management projects are in Indian Creek Township
- concern for buffering significant ecological areas (Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve, Leonard Springs Park, etc.)
- exclusion of livestock from woodlands is important
- local ranking points assigned are 100

Animals (habitat & management)

- concerns for threatened and endangered species throughout the county (crawfish frog in the northwest and northern cavefish of the karsts region)
- previous EQIP applications were livestock oriented
- concerns for the karsts region, especially the Leonard Springs area
- wildlife priority areas were the Muscatatuck, Restle and Sycamore Land trust wetlands in the lower Bean Blossom Creek floodplain
- most livestock operations are in lower Bean Blossom Creek or Indian Creek watersheds
- local ranking points assigned are 125 due to potential impacts of livestock operations on soil and water quality, and the vulnerability of all wildlife

The workgroup agreed to utilize five resource maps to expedite local ranking. Points were weighted for each resource depending upon its vulnerability of degradation due to current or anticipated pressures. The group recognized the interactions between resources and weighted the points according to anticipated needs on working lands.